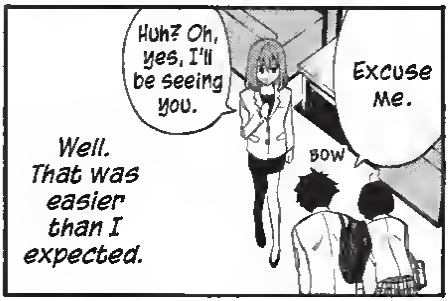
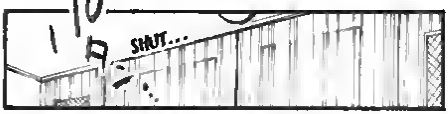
Case 7: ⚜ Hidden from the Press, Part 4

I crawled my way to the top from rock-bottom, coughing up blood as I went.
I have nothing to fear.
I'll make sure to see you some other time... okay?

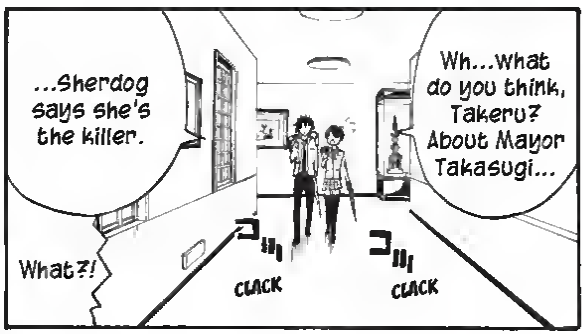

Huh? Oh, yes, I'll be seeing you.
Excuse me.
BOW
Well. That was easier than I expected.

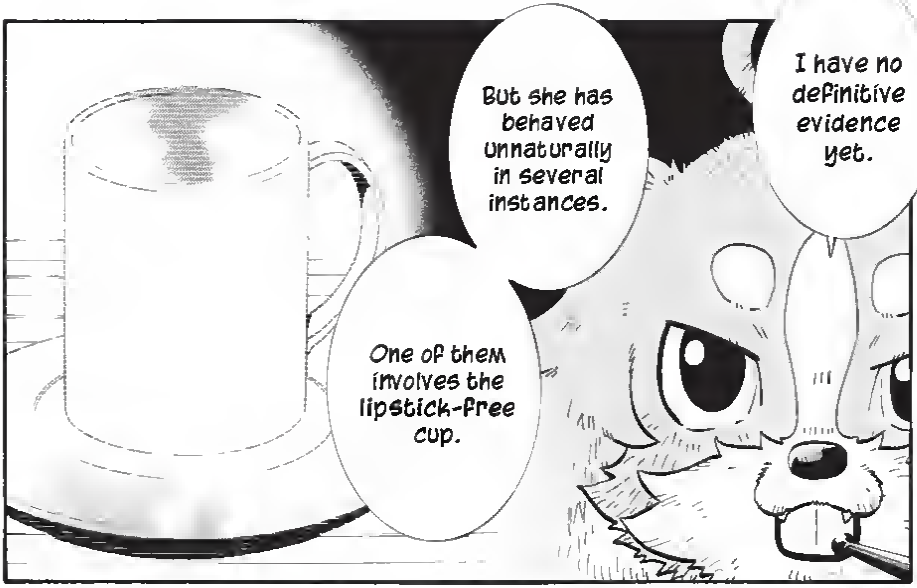

SHUT...

GRRR
...
We understand. We're sorry for just dropping in like that.

She is almost certainly our killer.
But that kid definitely knows something.
If he ever tries to stand in my way,
That's when I'll...
Watson.

What makes you so sure?
Hmm.


...Sherdog says she's the killer.
What?!
Wh...What do you think, Takeru? About Mayor Takasugi...
CLACK
CLACK


I have no definitive evidence yet.
But she has behaved unnaturally in several instances.
One of them involves the lipstick-free cup.

She deliberately wiped the lipstick off of her own cup.
SQUEAK
It bothers me.
When you pointed out that there was no lipstick on it,

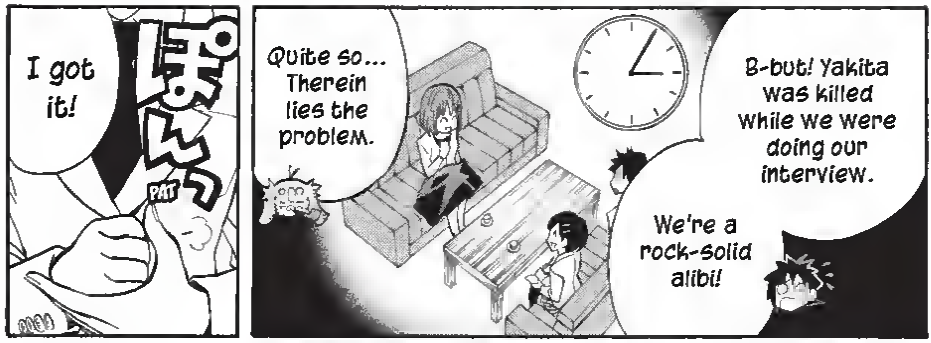
was one she had drunk from.
Yesterday, she insisted that the cup in her office kitchen

There was a cup on her desk with an obvious lipstick mark!
Oh! But today...
Exactly. She has never been the type to pay any mind to such things.

I get it!
From that, we can infer that she had some reason
to hide the fact that she had a visitor.
Is he really talking to him?
In fact, I stole a peek at Irene's photos of the victim...
You...You don't miss a thing, do you...?
Ichirō Yakita was his name.
And that face did indeed belong to the villain who kicked me yesterday.
...So you're saying that Mayor Takasugi really didn't want anyone to know
And that means...
that Yakita had seen her.

Yakita was in her office a little while before we came to interview her.
YO!
And the mayor tried to hide it.
IT'S MINE ♡
THAT CUP?
And then the next morning, they found Yakita's body. ...Does that cover it?

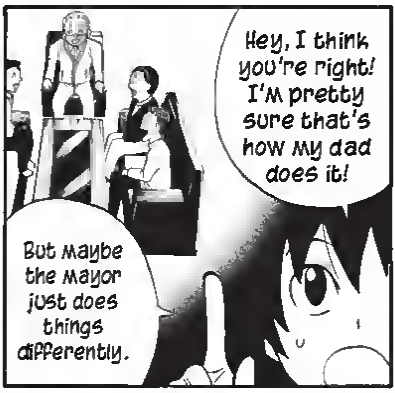
That covers it, Watson.
How...how could she not be the killer?!
...
HMM. HMM.
PAT
LONDON

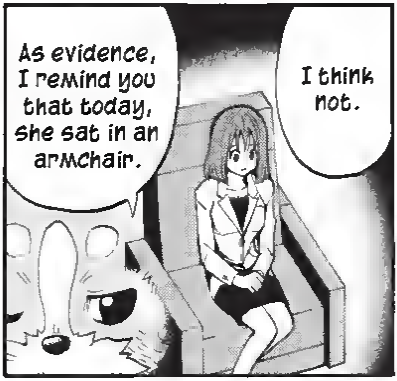

I got it!
PAT
Quite so... Therein lies the problem.
B-but! Yakita was killed while we were doing our interview.
We're a rock-solid alibi!

Yakita already had someone out to get him.
Maybe this is what happened?
He wanted to get some money out of the mayor, so he could skip the country.
¥
So he disguised himself as an electrician to come visit her!
Yeah, so she hid it, because she knew it would turn into a scandal.
OH, CRAP!
NEWS
I get it! But the other guy caught him after the visit and then killed him.
But the mayor has shown some rather unnatural behavior
that your theory fails to explain.
Huh?
Yes, the pieces do fit together.
You-you're a genius, Miki!
WHOA
うわぁぁ

And...
she had the air conditioner on exceedingly high yesterday, but only yesterday.
For example,
But what's so unnatural about that?
Yeah.
the Mayor sat on the sofa.
Did you notice? When we visited yesterday,
Host
Guest
Guest
Host
Host
she will invite the guests to sit on the sofa, while taking one of the individual armchairs for herself.
Usually, when a hostess entertains multiple guests,

I couldn't say for certain,
but I am convinced it has some connection to the unusually high air conditioning.
Some connection...


Hey, I think you're right! I'm pretty sure that's how my dad does it!
But maybe the mayor just does things differently.


I think not.
As evidence, I remind you that today, she sat in an armchair.

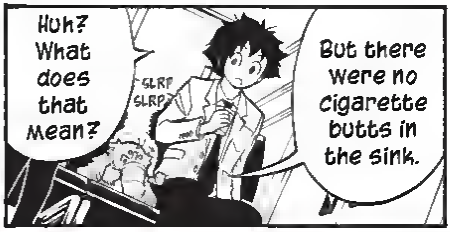
AWW, I WISH I COULD HEAR IT, TOO
Oh yeah... But why would she do that?

When we visited yesterday,
the mayor's office still...
There's more, Watson.
Huh? What?

I am positive it must have come from a cigarette belonging to Yakita.
...smelled of tobacco.

she disposed of them somewhere no one would see.
Most likely,

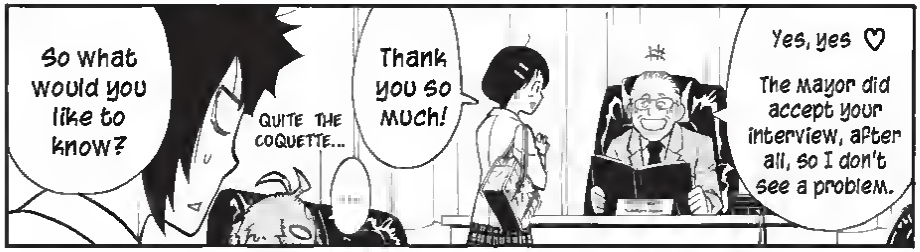
threw out its remains herself...
I EMPTIED THE ASHTRAY.
The mayor claimed that she

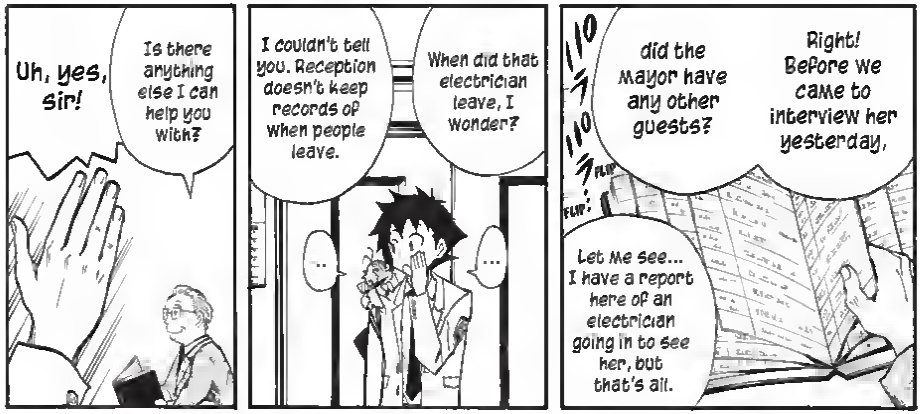

Huh? What does that mean?
SLRP SLRP
But there were no cigarette butts in the sink.

She wouldn't have been that meticulous about hiding the cigarette.
...!
If, for argument's sake, the possibility of a scandal
was the only reason she lied about Yakita's visit...

The act of hiding it somewhere other than the sink, where no one would see,
seems to reveal that she knew beforehand
that Yakita would be killed
and that the police would pay her a visit as a murder suspect.
...
It sure does...
But where's the proof?
We don't have anything to prove that Yakita was in the Mayor's office.
We can't just go to the police and tell them that my dog saw him there.
BAM
When there isn't enough evidence, there is only one thing a detective can do.
WIPE
WIPE
Ask around!
Let's go, Watson!
Uh, I'M not a detective...
LUCKY DOG. I WISH SHE'D WIPE MY FACE.

Deputy Mayor's Office
I want to write an article about Mayor Takasugi's daily schedule.
BUT SHE'S VERY BUSY RIGHT NOW, SO..
Will you please answer my questions?
Please, Mr. Deputy!


So what would you like to know?
QUITE THE COQUETTE...
Thank you so MUCH!
Yes, yes ♡
The Mayor did accept your interview, after all, so I don't see a problem.


Uh, yes, sir!
Is there anything else I can help you with?
I couldn't tell you. Reception doesn't keep records of when people leave.
When did that electrician leave, I wonder?
Right! Before we came to interview her yesterday,
did the Mayor have any other guests?
FLIP
FLIP
Let me see... I have a report here of an electrician going in to see her, but that's all.

Where there any other tradesman here?
After the people who came after us?
There would have been two or three of them, I think?
This may be connected to the Mayor's magic alibi.
Kōdan Furniture, eh?
London Academy News
Mai-Mai Shimbun
Kōdan Furniture
She had put in a request for replacements.
The Mayor had some old furniture in her office.
Oh, you mean them?
HM?
HOP
...They're going to write an article with that?
WHATEVER SHE'S CUTE
You're very welcome.
That's all we need. Thank you very much.

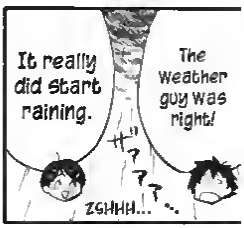
I, Sherlock Holmes, will take full responsibilty.
Worry not.
How would that help? You're a dog!
DUN
...Do I really have to do this, Sherdog?
GLUM
Call the furniture place and tell them I'm from city hall?
Wha?
Uh, thi... th-th-this is c-c-city h-h-hall...
FLAIL
Kōdon Furniture
FLAIL
...
...
...
BRRRING, BRRRING
...
...Yes, I am responsible for London City Hall's interior design.
SMOOTH
It's about the furniture you delivered to the Mayor's office yesterday... Yes...
It's just like you said, Takeru!
I...I know, right?
It's just like I said, you mean.
Thank you very much!
BEEP

We can tear the mayor's alibi to pieces!
A-anyway! Now!
Indeed.

Watson!
Huh?

FWOFF
ばふっ
PATTER PATTER

Now we just need to prove that Yakita came to the mayor's office yesterday.
DRIP
DRIP
Oh!


It really did start raining.
The weather guy was right!
ZSHHH...

This... this is cigarette ash!
What?!

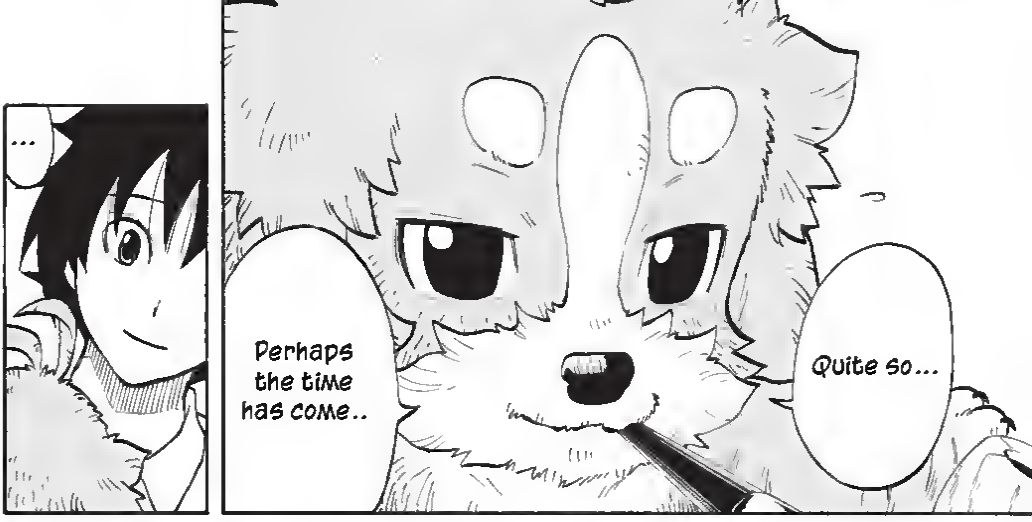
The final act approaches, Watson.
Yeah...

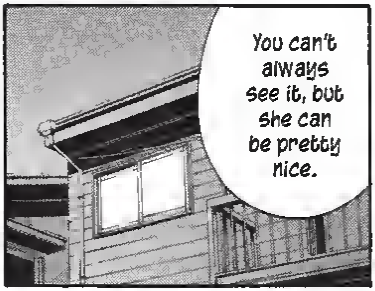
...Are you serious?

I know that. This ash is most likely...
My sister would kill me!
But I don't smoke!

!
...

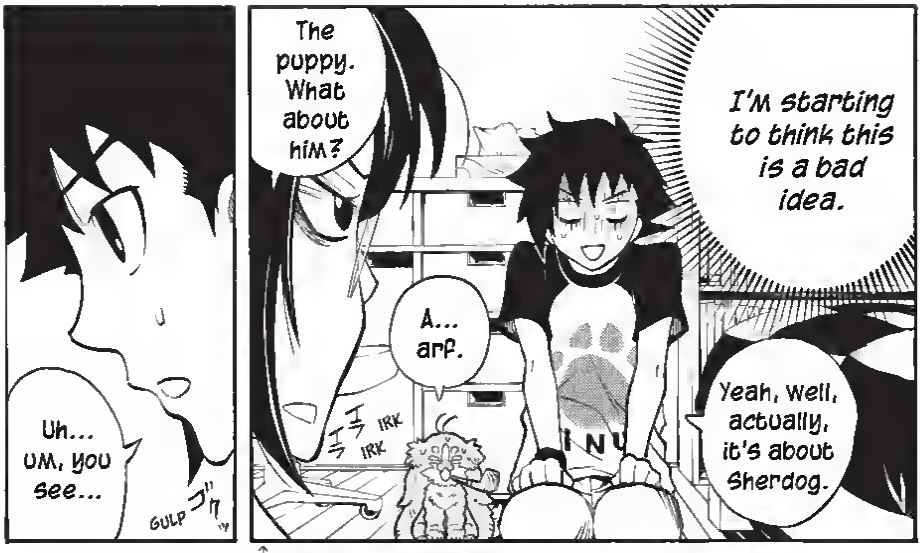
Hey, Sherdog.
Maybe we should just tell Airin-nēchan.
And ask her to help us.
But we're up against the mayor.
ZSHHH...
And she's also a cold-blooded killer.
Tell her?
Like, about you, Sherdog.
You know?
What?
We told Miki, and she understood.
Maybe Airin would understand, too.


...
Perhaps the time has come..
Quite so...

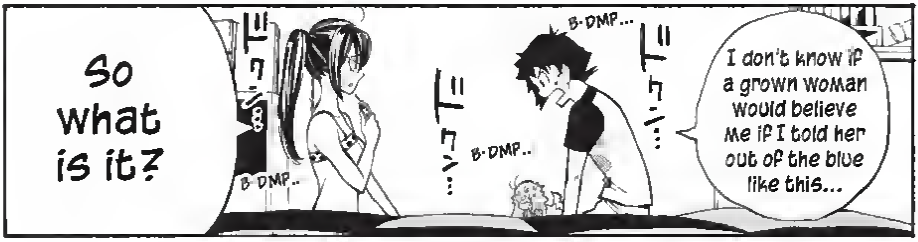

You can't always see it, but she can be pretty nice.

Mrk! I-I am not!
What are you so nervous about?
ARE YOU AFRAID SHE'LL HATE YOU?
It'll be fine! She'll still love you!

スゥゥゥ
DOOOOOM
WELL?
SLEEP DEPRIVED
TIRED FROM WORK
SECOND BOTTLE
WHAT'S THIS IM-PORTANT THING YOU WANT TO DISCUSS WITH ME?



↑AND SHE HAS LOW BLOOD SUGAR FROM DIETING



ワン
ワン!!
ARF ARF!
CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP
...
Sher...
No! Not again!
He-he's acting like...
So what do you want?